

REMARKS

Initially, the undersigned would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended during the in-person interview of 27 October 2009. During the interview, the below arguments were made with respect to claim 9. The examiner agreed that U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0060063 to Russ *et al.* did not disclose all of the limitations of claim 9. Accordingly, the arguments below can be considered the substance of the interview.

Claims 9-13 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0060063 to Russ *et al.* (hereafter: “Russ”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 recites features associated with the exemplary embodiment described on, for example, pg. 67 in which the playback apparatus includes *inter alia* a transition control unit (e.g., 30) executing a predetermined procedure including (i) judging whether the button number in the button number register is an invalid button number that does not exist in one of the sets of page information that corresponds to the current page, and (ii) if the button number is the invalid button number, setting the button number register to an alternative button number.

Accordingly, the playback apparatus can allow the execution of the BD-ROM despite the presence of errors in the BD-ROM, as well as other advantages and effects.

Russ, on the other hand, merely describes a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) in which media content information is mapped from to an interactive program guide (IPG) displayed on a screen. Assuming *arguendo* that the IPG provides a graphics stream, Russ

still fails to disclose that the DHCT includes a transition control unit executing a predetermined procedure including (i) judging whether the button number in the button number register is an invalid button number that does not exist in one of the sets of page information that corresponds to the current page, and (ii) if the button number is the invalid button number, setting the button number register to an alternative button number as called for in claims 9 and 12-13.

At best, Russ merely describes DHCT receiving commands from a remote control for recording, rewinding, or fast forwarding data (see paragraph [0078]) and a content-based channel mapping scheme for mapping content chosen by theme into a particular PVR channel (see paragraph [0111]). Paragraphs [0078] and [0011] were pointed to by the examiner as disclosing the transition control unit. However, there is no description here of determining if a button number is invalid or even a button number register.

Accordingly, because Russ fails to disclose a transition control unit executing a predetermined procedure including (i) judging whether the button number in the button number register is an invalid button number that does not exist in one of the sets of page information that corresponds to the current page, and (ii) if the button number is the invalid button number, setting the button number register to an alternative button number as called for in claims 9 and 12-13, the rejection of claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kerry Culpepper Reg. # 45,672/
October 28, 2009

Kerry S. Culpepper
Reg. No. 45,672

Panasonic Patent Center
1130 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202-912-3800
Fax: 202-912-0774
Customer No. 42212